Ban on Smoking

†1118. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the campaign being run by Government to ban smoking; and

(b) the details of the death rate due to smoking for the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003, *inter-alia*, prohibits smoking in public places. The provision of the Act relating to ban on smoking in public places, amongst others, has come into force w.e.f. 1st May, 2004. Sustained IEC activities are undertaken at the Central and State levels for implementation of provisions of the said Act.

(b) Tobacco is responsible directly or indirectly for an estimated eight lakh deaths annually in the country.

Modernisation of Government Hospitals in NER

1119. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to modernize all the Government Hospitals in NER, particularly in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details of amount proposed for the purpose;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete steps being taken by Government in this respect.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to modernize all the Government Hospitals in North Eastern Region, including in Assam.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.